

EFFECTS OF FIRE ON THE TUNDRA

Game Cards

Cut each game card.

Smoke causes delays in airplane flights (ST)	Fire increases the depth of the active layer (the soil that seasonally thaws above the permafrost) (ST)
Ash from both prescribed burns and wildland fires adds to the greenhouse effect (LT)	Some species of lichens take as long as 100 years to recover after a burn (LT)
Fire removes above ground vegetation and blackens soil so the soil can be warmed by the sun for better plant growth (ST)	Food for wildlife and humans is destroyed by fire (ST)
Fire returns nutrients to the soil (ST)	Fire creates plant diversity and vegetation mosaics (ST & LT)
Hot, intense fires destroy underground plant parts, making revegetation very slow in the area (ST)	Re-sprouting of grasses, sedges, and shrubs provides food and cover for some wildlife after a fire (ST & LT)

In very old growth tundra, lichens do not grow well. Light fires have been known to stimulate regrowth of lichens (ST & LT)	Caribou will forage on a recent burn for 1-2 years and then may not use the area for a number of years (ST)
Recent burn areas are good hunting grounds for some predators (ST)	Fire fighting requires the purchase of local goods and services (ST)
Trapping and hunting are better in recently burned areas (within 5-10 years after burn) (LT)	Fires burn cabins and trap lines (ST)
Smoke from fires makes your eyes and throat burn (ST)	Fires provide fire suppression jobs (ST & LT)